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Application No. 10/769,790
Amendment dated June 30, 2008
Reply to December 31, 2007 Office Action

JUN 30 2008

Docket No.: 3560-0136P

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for sensing the presence of the distal end of a source wire in a reference position within a guidance channel of an afterloading apparatus, said afterloading apparatus being used for positioning an energy emitting source fixed to said distal end of said source wire at a desired position within an animal body for radiation therapy treatment purposes, by driving said source wire from said reference position towards said desired position through said guidance channel and a catheter tube, which catheter tube is connected with one tube end to the afterloading apparatus and implanted with its other tube end in said animal body, the sensing device comprising a lever element pivotally mounted near said guidance channel, which lever element is urged by said distal end in a first position, when said distal end of said source wire is not present in its reference position and whereas said lever element is in a second position, when said distal end is present in its reference position, and

wherein said lever element is urged by said distal end in a third position when said distal end is past said reference position and wherein detecting means are present for detecting the presence of said lever element in said first, second or third position.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein said first position said lever element extends in said guidance channel.

4. (Currently Amended) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein said lever element is biased against a counterforce, said counterforce urging said lever element in its first position.

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5. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 4, wherein said device further comprises a spring for exerting said counterforce on said lever element.

6. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 1, further comprising detection means for detecting the presence of said lever element in said first, second or third position.

7. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 6, wherein said detection means comprises at least one light emitting element and one light detector mounted at both sides of said lever element.

8. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 7, wherein said lever element is at least partly made of a light non-transparent material.

9. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claims 7, wherein said lever element is provided with at least one through bore.

10. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claims 7, wherein an edge of said lever element is provided with at least one notch.

11. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 6, wherein the optical path formed by said light emitting element and said light detector is located some distance away from the guidance channel.

12. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 6, wherein said

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lever element is made of a magnetic material and wherein said detection means comprises a Hall-sensor.

13. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 6, wherein detection means comprises at least one switch, preferably a microswitch.

14. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein the energy emitting source is radio-wave antenna.

15. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein the energy emitting source is miniature X-ray source.

16. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein the energy emitting source is a radioactive source.

17. (Currently Amended) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein the source wire is [[a]] an optical wire.

18. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein the source wire is a coaxial cable.

19. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein the source wire is a nickel-titanium alloy wire.

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20. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein the source wire is a combination of optical wire surrounded by a nickel-titanium alloy tube.

21. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 1, wherein the source wire is a combination of a coax cable and an optical wire.

22. (Original) An afterloading apparatus provided with a sensing device according to claim 1.